

**WHAT THE LETTERS COST.**  
PAY OF RAILWAYS FOR CARRYING MAILS.  
THE METHOD OF DECIDING THE RATE AT WHICH  
VARIOUS LINES ARE COMPENSATED.

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All the mail matter carried over the various railroads for thirty or sixty days is actually weighed once in four years, and payments are made to the railroad companies on the theory that the average amount of mail matter on all the days of the four years' term will be the same as the daily average for the one month or two months when the amount is accurately ascertained. The weighing for the local routes is made under the direction of the division superintendents of the Railways Mail Service, and Mr. Dwenger has charge of the weighing for the Second Division, in which New-York is situated. He will begin, however, on January 15 under direction of the Post Office Department the supervision of weighing the mails carried over the great trunk lines out of New-York. The great through routes known in the postal service as trunk lines are those which run from the West to the East, and from the South to the North.

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